



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

NOV 25 2013

Jenniffer Sheppard
Office of Environmental Services
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA. 70821-4313

Re: EPA Comments on Draft *Use Attainability Analysis of Inland Rivers and Streams in the Eastern Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plains Ecoregion for Review of Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Criteria* (June 7, 2008)

Dear Ms. Sheppard:

I would like to commend the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and its staff in the development and preparation of the draft use attainability analysis (UAA) for the eastern Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plains (LMRAP).

After its review of this draft document, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not have any significant points of concern. We would, however, suggest that the last paragraph of the executive summary, on pg. 6, and Table 4, on pg. 23, be modified to clarify that estuarine waters or tidally influenced streams or segments are not targeted in this study and/or proposed for criteria revision. As the narrative and table currently reads, it appears that all waters, including estuarine segments in the eastern LMRAP, are subject to the proposed dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria revision. The reference sites selected for this component of the study did not include estuarine waters, and it would be inappropriate to adopt proposed DO criteria for estuarine segments without analysis of estuarine references. By revising the narrative and table, LDEQ would eliminate such confusion before proceeding with rulemaking.

We look forward to working with LDEQ on the subsequent revisions to the water quality standards. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (214) 665-9736.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Matt Hubner", is written over a horizontal blue line.

Matt Hubner
Water Quality Standards Coordinator
Watershed Management Section

cc: Sandra Stephens, Water Quality Standards, LDEQ